

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 AF-08
ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 BIB-01 EB-07 COME-00
PA-01 PRS-01 L-03 IOE-00 /085 W
-----271833Z 001134 /23 45
P 271621Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8265

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNESCO, PORG, OCON
SUBJECT: UNESCO PLANS RE MASS MEDIA, CONVERSATION WITH
DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOBES

REF: PARIS 37613

1. JACK FOBES CALLED PERM REP TO INFORM US OF SECRETARIATE PLANS ON THE COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA ISSUES. HIS CONVERSATION GENERALLY CONFIRMED WHAT HAD BEEN TOLD TO ME BY NAJMAN AND REPORTED REFTEL, BUT MORE SPECIFICS WERE ADDED.

2. AS TO THE MASS MEDIA DECLARATION: FOBES CONFIRMED WHAT NAJMAN HAD SAID ABOUT FINDING ONE EMINENT PERSON TO TRAVEL TO THE VARIOUS REGIONS OF THE WORLD TO GET VARIOUS VIEWS ON A NEW DRAFT DECLARATION. FOBES SAID THAT HECTOR WYNTER HAS BEEN TENTATIVELY SELECTED AS THE PERSON AND HE IS BEING CONTACTED FOR AVAILABILITY. M'BOW HAS NOT APPROVED THE CONCEPT, BUT WILL BE PRESENTED WITH THE PLAN WHEN HE RETURNS TO PARIS ON JAN. 11. FOBES SAID HE EXPECTED M'BOW TO CONCUR.
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3. THE PLAN WOULD BE FOR WYNTER TO VISIT THE KEY COUNTRIES AND REGIONS OF THE WORLD, CONSULT WITH LEADERS IN THE COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY AND COMPILE THE RESULTS OF HIS CONSULTATIONS. THESE WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE DG WHO WOULD THEN INSTRUCT THE SECRETARIATE TO PREPARE

A DRAFT BASED ON WYNTER'S FINDINGS. THIS DRAFT WOULD THEN BE SUBMITTED TO MEMBER STATES FOR THEIR VIEWS AND A FINAL TEXT PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIATE FOR THE 20TH GENERAL CONFERENCE. THERE WOULD BE NO MEETINGS OR VOTES AND THE DRAFT WOULD REFLECT THOSE POINTS ON WHICH A CONSENSUS WAS REACHED. EVERY EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO ELIMINATE CONTROVERSY AND POLITIZATION.

4. AS TO COMMUNICATIONS IN GENERAL: FOBES SAID THE PLAN IS TO PREPARE A MAJOR STUDY ALONG THE LINES AS "LEARNING TO BE" WHICH WOULD FOCUS ON THE ROLE OF COMMUNICATIONS IN MODERN SOCIETIES. THE AUTHORITY FOR THIS STUDY WOULD BE MEDIUM TERM OBJECTIVE 9.1 WHICH WAS ADOPTED AT THE 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE. ALSO, FOBES SAID THE UNGA HAD RECENTLY ADOPTED A RESOLUTION CALLING UPON UNESCO TO REPORT TO THE 33RD UNGA ON "PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN DEVELOPMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATIONS" AND THIS WOULD ALSO SERVE AS AUTHORITY FOR LAUNCHING THE UNDERTAKING. AS THE STUDY WOULD BE BASED ON THE MEDIUM TERM OBJECTIVES, WITH THE NOTES ON THE OBJECTIVE COMING OUT OF COMMISSION II AT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE, AND ON THE UNGA RESOLUTION THERE IS NO NEED TO INVOLVE THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OR TO HOLD INTER GOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS.

5. A COMMISSION OF "WISE MEN", PROBABLY NUMBERING EIGHT, WOULD BE APPOINTED BY THE DG TO PREPARE THE STUDY. THE COMMISSION WOULD SELECT PROMINENT PERSONS AND INSTITUTIONS AROUND THE WORLD TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS AND THESE WOULD BE COMPILED AND SYNTHESIZED.

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6. TIMING WOULD BE TO PRESENT THE IDEA TO THE DG WHEN HE RETURNS TO PARIS WITH SUGGESTIONS OF NAMES OF PERSONS TO SERVE ON THE COMMISSION. FOBES SAID HE EXPECTED M'BOW TO APPROVE THE BASIC CONCEPT AND INITIAL LIST OF NAMES BY JAN. 15, 1977. ONE AMERICAN WOULD BE EXPECTED TO SERVE ON THE COMMISSION. THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMISSION WOULD BE SCHEDULED FOR LATE FEBRUARY OR EARLY MARCH. THE FULL COMMISSION WOULD MEET AND DETERMINE THE PARAMETERS OF THE UNDERTAKING AND SELECT INSTITUTIONS AND PERSONS TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS. THE FULL COMMISSION WOULD MEET THREE OR FOUR TIMES WITH JUNE, 1978 THE TARGET DATE FOR COMPLETION OF THE DRAFT REPORT. THE REPORT WOULD THEN BE FINALLY WORKED UP AND PUBLISHED. IT WOULD RESPOND TO UNESCO OBJECTIVE

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9.1 AND ALSO TO THE UNGA RESOLUTION, AND WOULD, HOPEFULLY, BE THE MAJOR WORK ON THE ROLE AND PHILOSOPHY OF COMMUNICATIONS IN THE MODERN WORLD. THERE WOULD BE NO INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS AND THE EXBD WOULD MERELY RECEIVE A COPY OF THE REPORT. THE WORK WOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH SOME OF THE ISSUES RAISED BY THE TUNISIAN RESOLUTION.

7. FOBES SAID HE HAD TENTATIVELY DISCUSSED THIS PLAN WITH BILL HARLEY AND HAD MENTIONED IT TO SARA POWER, ALTHOUGH NOT IN ANY DETAIL. HE SAID HE FULLY EXPECTED THAT PERSONS SUCH AS HARLEY WOULD BE GIVEN CONTRACTS TO PROVIDE INPUTS INTO THE STUDY. SUGGESTIONS FOR OTHER NAMES WOULD BE WELCOMED AND FOBES AGREED TO CONSULT WITH THE DELEGATION AND NATIONAL COMMISSION AS MATTERS PROGRESSED.

8. COMMENT: IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES WILL GO ALONG THE DIRECTIONS INDICATED BY FOBES AND NAJMAN. EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO "DE-POLITIZE" THEM BY KEEPING MASS MEDIA AWAY FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS AND IN THE HANDS OF EXPERTS SELECTED BY THE
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SECRETARIATE.

GAMMON

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